



Los Angeles County Regional Park And Open Space District

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May 06, 2014

The Honorable Board of Directors
County of Los Angeles
Regional Park and Open Space District
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

3-P May 6, 2014

Sachi A. Hamai
SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Directors:

**ALLOCATE COUNTY EXCESS FUNDS
AVAILABLE TO THE THIRD SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT
AND AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF AN EXCESS FUND GRANT TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
FOR THE VIRGINIA ROBINSON GARDENS GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
(THIRD DISTRICT)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate \$421,000 in County Excess Funds, available to the Third Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the Department of Parks and Recreation for general improvements to Virginia Robinson Gardens.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find the proposed Virginia Robinson Gardens General Improvements Project categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act because the proposed Project involves repairs, improvements, and the rehabilitation of historic resources in a manner consistent with applicable Secretary of Interior Standards for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the Project.
2. Allocate \$421,000 in County Excess Funds, available to the Third Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the Department of Parks and Recreation for the proposed Virginia Robinson Gardens General Improvements Project.

3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as the Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a grant to the Department of Parks and Recreation in the amount of \$421,000 for the proposed Virginia Robinson Gardens General Improvements Project, if applicable conditions have been met, and to administer the grant as of the date of this action and pursuant to the procedures in the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects; otherwise, funds shall remain in the Excess Funds account.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate \$421,000 in County Excess Funds, available to the Third Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), to the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) for the proposed Virginia Robinson Gardens General Improvements Project (Project).

The proposed Project consists of general improvements to the property, including upgrading the main electrical service, addition of a new separate electrical service and new automated security driveway gate to the existing lower garage, addition of new security lighting and security cameras throughout the facility, upgrading the heating and cooling systems for both the main house and the pool pavilion to museum-grade quality to improve preservation of historic artifacts, furnishings, and finishes, and repairing the existing swimming pool ceramic tiles and grout to restore the pool to its original condition.

The estimated total project cost is \$1,402,000, and consists of the recommended \$421,000 in County Excess Funds, \$233,000 from the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1992 (1992 Proposition) already awarded to DPR, \$248,000 from the Third Supervisorial District's Capital Improvements net County cost, and \$500,000 from the Virginia Robinson Trust Fund.

It is also recommended that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Director), in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, be authorized to award the grant when applicable conditions have been met, such as grantee qualifications, consistency between the Project and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, and grantee agreement with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the Project, if applicable, and to administer the grant pursuant to the Procedural Guide previously approved by the Board.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions will further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goals of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1) by enhancing health-promoting recreational opportunities in the Third Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the Excess Funds grant in the amount of \$421,000 is budgeted in the Third Supervisorial District's portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds. The DPR has met this requirement.

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining, each fiscal year, the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended grant will be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District for County projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director would be authorized to award grants when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a Project Agreement in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

On June 2, 2009, the Board approved the Procedural Guide to govern the administration of RPOSD grants. The Procedural Guide will appropriately govern the administration of the recommended grant as well.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All projects funded by RPOSD are required to comply with CEQA as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the Project. The County is the lead agency for the proposed Project.

The proposed Project is categorically exempt from CEQA. The Project, which consists of general improvements to the property, including upgrading the main electrical service; adding a new separate electrical service and new automated security driveway gate to the existing lower garage; adding new security lighting and security cameras throughout the facility; upgrading the heating and cooling systems for both the main house and the pool pavilion to museum-grade quality to improve preservation of historic artifacts, furnishings, and finishes; and repairing the existing swimming pool ceramic tiles and grout to restore the pool to its original condition consistent with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring and Reconstructing Historic Buildings (1995; Weeks and Grimmer), is within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that it meets the criteria set forth in Sections 15301 (a), (b), and (d), 15302 (c), 15303 (d), and 15331 of the State CEQA Guidelines, and Classes 1(c), (d), (e), and (m), 2(e), and 3(a) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G.

The proposed Project includes no expansion of an existing use, and structures replaced will be located on the same site as existing structures and will have the same purpose and capacity. Additionally, there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, or other limiting factors that would make the exemption inapplicable based on the proposed Project records.

Upon the Board's approval of the Project, the Department of Public Works will file a Notice of Exemption with the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk in accordance with Section 15062 of the CEQA Guidelines.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Project Agreement will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 2009 only if all applicable conditions of the grant have been met. The Project Agreement will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

These actions will have no impact on any other projects funded by RPOSD, but are required so that DPR may proceed with the proposed Project in the Third Supervisorial District, if all applicable conditions are met.

CONCLUSION

Please return one adopted copy of this Board letter to the Chief Executive Office, Facilities and Asset Management Division; and one to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:JB:WRO

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Chief Executive Office